

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 L-02 H-02

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 /045 W

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R 221034Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 7025

TOKYO FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, TH

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: FLASH SERVICE HALTED (INTEREST OF SENATOR LONG)

REF: A. BANGKOK 4455; B. BANGKOK 16386 (1974)

1. MR. YONGKIT SOTHIKUN, SHIPPING AGENT (NGOW HOCK CO.) FOR CENTRAL GULF LINES, APRIL 22 CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, ON CONCLUSION OF LABOR-GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY MEETING, HAS IMPOSED BAN, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, ON CENTRAL GULF'S FLASH SERVICES INAUGURATED HERE ONE MONTH AGO (REF A).

2. YONGKIT SAID THAT OPPOSITION TO FLASH SERVICES CAME FROM MEMBERS OF 49 STEVEDORE LABOR GROUPS AND THE PARENT LIGHTER LABOR ASSOCIATION, FROM THE LIGHTER OWNERS ASSOCIATION, AND FROM COMPETING SHIPPING LINES. HE ADDED THAT MINISTRY'S ACTION HAS THE EFFECT OF DEFERRING, RATHER THAN RESCINDING, AUTHORITY ORIGINALLY GRANTED NGOW HOCK TO INAUGURATE FLASH SERVICE.

3. YONGKIT CITED THE "DETERIORATING POLITICAL CLIMATE IN
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BUSINESS AFFAIRS IN BANGKOK," AND SAID CENTRAL GULF HAS

NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFER TO "THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE," AT
LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. HE URGED FOR FOREGOING REASON
THAT EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT SEEK TO INTERVENE WITH THE MINISTRY
ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL GULF.

4. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS HAVE FOCUSED ONLY ON THREAT TO
BARGE AND DOCK LABOR POSED BY FLASH SERVICE, RATHER THAN
CABOTAGE ELEMENT CITED BY RTG OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY,
GOVERNOR OF PORT AUTHORITY IS QUOTED AS SAYING NATIONAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD PLANS TO SUBMIT BILL
TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO AUTHORIZE FLASH SERVICE. REPORT,
IF TRUE, IMPLIES SIMILAR BILL HAS BEEN PIGEONHOLED BY
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (REF B).
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EWWT, TH, CENTRAL GULF STEAMSHIP LINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
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